

2006 PORTFOLIO SCORING STUDY*

KENTUCKY WRITING PORTFOLIO Table of Contents Grade 7

Student Signature Sheet Included and Signed

☒ Y

☐ N

(Circle One)

Fill In
Number
Selected

Category/Descriptor

Content area

Page

At least one piece
must come from a
content area other than
English/language arts

1	Reflective Writing (Include 1)		
	Title: <i>Dear Reviewer</i>	English/language arts	1
1	Personal Expressive or Literary Writing (Include 1) <i>Personal Narrative, Memoir, Personal Essay/ Story, Poem, Script</i>		
	Title: <i>Baby Cindy</i>	Lang. Arts	6
1	Transactive Writing (Include 1) <i>Various Real-World Forms</i>		
	Title: <i>The Flo Blues</i>	Science	12
3	Total (must equal 3)		

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The pieces in this portfolio are my own original work. I am the author of all the pieces in my portfolio. I may have talked about my work (conferenced) with my teacher, family, and friends, but I have made any changes and corrections myself. I did my own writing, typing, and/or word processing (unless otherwise indicated by a teacher's signature in the box below labeled "IEP/504 Plan/Program Services Plan Adaptations").

Student Signature

IEP/504 Plan/Program Services Plan (LEP) Adaptations (requires teacher signature):

Teacher Signature: _____

Optional Permission

I agree to allow my portfolio to be photocopied for use by others outside my school as an example of student work. I understand that my name, the names of my school and town, and any other identifying information I may have used in my writing will be removed before my portfolio is copied.

Student Signature (optional)

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Optional Permission: The use of actual student portfolios is critical in teacher training and is essential for quality control checks during statewide rescoring activities. Students are requested, but not required, to give permission for this purpose and should sign the optional student signature above if they agree.

Please note that portfolios are included in any statewide rescoring activities even if neither statement is signed.

“Life doesn’t require that we do our best, only that we try our best.”

- H. Jackson Brown Jr.

Dear Reviewer,

Since the beginning of my seventh grade year, my goal was to attain a Distinguished portfolio. Throughout this year I have strived to the best of my ability to succeed in my goal. I have been writing for months on end trying to fulfill the requirements of the seventh grade portfolio. This portfolio experience pushed me on and on through the thick, never-ending jungle of emotions and questions of who I am as a writer, and in turn who I am as a person.

In a rain forest there are four layers of life, the forest floor, the understory, the canopy, and the emergent layer. Each layer has its own distinct qualities and unique animals and plants you won’t find in other layers of the forest. The rain forest is specifically what it is because of the layers and

their irreplaceable habitats combining to make the final environment. In comparison, each portfolio piece is special in its own way with its own objectives to be realized. Like the rain forest layers, each piece is unique in its own way, but only together will they combine to form the spectacular high scoring portfolio.

Learning how to prewrite and brainstorm words to describe my creative ideas was one of the harder challenges that I had to triumph over. It seemed to take me forever just to write one paragraph. As I grew more experienced in that topic, learning from my teacher, it almost became second nature to me.

The thesaurus became my best friend when the time came to revise and edit my pieces. I could always depend on it to help me find the perfect replacement for a word that was not quite right or used too often.

I think that my best entry is "Baby Cindy." This piece is like the forest floor in a rain forest. It is the foundation for all of my other writings because not only was it one of the easier pieces for me to write, but it is also reflective of my basic desire to love and be loved. Love creates a foundation for life to grow into and be based upon.

I relate the understory in a forest to my piece "The Flu Blues." Writing transactive pieces isn't one of my strengths. This is one of my pieces that I consider bulky and dense because I couldn't see the final product until the darkness cleared up.

My poetry piece "Inside This" is associated to the canopy. A refreshing breeze will blow you away and rustle your thoughts as you quietly read through it. As the many animals that live in the canopy have a distinct uniqueness, this poem does as well.

Way up high in the emergent layer, my piece "Ski Bunny" hangs out on the treetops. When you are evaluating this piece you will feel my fear as I ride up the ski lift, and it will be as though you were there with me on an adventure of a lifetime. My emotions were lashed into turbulence as I discovered that I really am afraid of heights.

Without the help and encouragement from my mother and teachers, I wouldn't have realized how rewarding writing could be as I dissected my thoughts and feelings. It's not easy understanding who we are, but when we put thoughts and ideas down on paper, clarity can often result in a wonderful revelation.

When taking my writing skills on with me to the future, I plan to keep writing in a distinguished manner. I hope to continue to challenge myself, and in doing so hopefully my weaknesses will develop and strengthen.

So as I think about the layers of a rain forest, I think about the layers of my life. I compare these layers to my portfolio, and realize that the layers can be very complex, but can also be amazingly simple. As in my portfolio, all of my pieces can stand on their own like unique habitats but can mesh together to become an interactive group of writing showing the environment of the person I am.

Yours truly,

A seventh grade student

Baby Cindy

"Mom, Mom," I yelled down the hall, "Where did you put her!"

Just the thought of Baby Cindy missing was mind-boggling.

"Who, what are you talking about?" my mom questioned.

"Baby Cindy, I can't find her anywhere!" I shouted.

"Oh, I put her in the attic with all of your other stuffed animals to keep them company," she chuckled.

"Mom, this is not a joking matter! She's special, and you should know that! She needs to be taken down now!" I screamed.

Baby Cindy was and still is a very special friend of mine. Although she might look like an ordinary doll stuffed full of cotton balls, with yellow yarn hair, and a painted-on face, in my eyes she was the most beautiful doll I had ever seen in my life. I found her in a very odd place. As I sit here, the memories flood back like a tidal wave.

It was the end of a long Thanksgiving weekend that we were spending with our family. That Sunday morning we walked over to

McDonald's for a quick breakfast before we had to start on our long journey home. As we stepped into the chilly McDonald's lobby, the first thing that went through my mind was...

"Play palace!" Cody, my older brother and I yelled in unison. We both had the same thought as we made a mad dash outside to the playground. Even though I was only two, boy could my short little legs send me flying. We stopped in awe with our mouths wide open, looking at what was a toddler's dream come true. Without delay, we tore our shoes and socks off and slid through the maze of tunnels and toys.

In a bit, Mom called us to find a place to eat our pancakes soaked in syrup. I waddled over to the nearest picnic table I could find and there, crumpled and forlorn under the corner of the picnic table, was a vision in pink. The last thing I would have thought to be my new best friend.

With pancakes now in the back of my mind, I walked over to the table as if I was being pulled by a magnetic force. Slowly, I bent down, tentatively picking up the pink and green mound of softness, not knowing what I was in for. There, smiling sweetly at me was the most angelic face I had ever seen in my short lifetime. The words tumbled from

my mouth as the excitement within me grew higher and higher, I was going to blow!

"Mommy, Mommy, look what I found," I said, tugging at my mom's shirt, "I found her over there and...and can I keep her?" I pleaded.

"What, huh? Cody, pancakes go in your MOUTH," Mom ordered.

"Mommy," I whined.

"Where did you get that?" she answered, alarmed.

"Under the table," I responded.

"That's not yours, is it?" Mom questioned.

"No, I just found her under the table," I said.

Then Mom got distracted when Cody spilled milk on the floor. All I could think about was keeping this precious bundle. I wanted her to be mine and I would later call her Baby Cindy.

Suddenly I came back into reality. Baby Cindy must be rescued from the dark and claustrophobic box in the attic. As I headed up the rickety wooden steps that lead up to the dreary room, another memory of me being with Baby Cindy hit me in the head like a boomerang. I

remembered taking her under my arm everywhere I went. Except for that one time...

I was packing, getting ready to go over to Grandma and Grandpa's house. I was so caught up in the excitement, the happiness in finally being able to stay over at their house for a whole weekend that I ...

"Shelby, come on we need to leave now," Mom yelled down the hall.

"I'm coming, I'm coming," I answered as I stuffed the last of my toys into my little backpack. Running out the door to the car, I felt like I was forgetting something, *Oh well*, I thought, *I probably don't need it anyway*. Slamming the car door, we drove off.

We were finally there, at Grandma and Grandpa's house. I hopped out of the car, ran up to the front door, knocked once and let myself in. Searching the house for my grandparents, I ran into my grandma on my way around.

"Go put your things up honey and you can have a cookie," she said, smiling sweetly.

"Okay Grandma," I said back, smiling just as sweetly as her. I threw my stuff on my bed and started pulling everything out looking for Baby Cindy. I couldn't find her anywhere! *Where could she be? Didn't I pack her? Why isn't she here!* Thoughts were chopping through my mind like a butcher knife. Panic started to rise in my throat and it erupted out in a scream. I couldn't imagine staying anywhere without my beloved Baby Cindy. Needless to say, it was a long weekend for me and my grandparents as Grandma tried to substitute one of her many Cabbage Patch dolls for the security that could only be found in my Baby Cindy.

As I flicked on the light in the attic I found the box in which Baby Cindy was being imprisoned. I grabbed it and started pushing through the box of old tired memories looking for the most important one of all. They had all been well-loved as was evident by their torn limbs and sticky fur, which jolted me back to one more memory.

I was playing in my backyard, climbing to the top of a ladder when she got caught on a loose nail. I could hear the thin and worn material

being ripped and I knew damage had been done. To the house I quickly ran in search of my mom. As tears ran down my face, I could hardly sputter out the words...

"Mom, can you fix her?"

As always, Mom could fix it. With every hand-sewn stitch that was put into her back, a freshly made tear ran down my cheek. Before I knew it she looked as good as new and we were back to our old adventures.

Back in the attic, my hand brushed across something as familiar as my parent's voice. Gently tugging it out I was relived to see it was Baby Cindy. Looking no worse for the wear of being tortured in this box, I hugged her fiercely and marched back to my bedroom carefully setting her in the place of honor on my pillow.

"Baby Cindy, you're staying with me forever. We will always remember our treasured memories, even as we make new ones."

THE FLU BLUES

Do you have that runny nose, hoarse cough, sore throat, muscle aching, feel-so-bad-that-you-just-want-to-die feeling? Well, if you do, you have probably come down with the flu. Trying to prevent the flu before it happens is one of the most effective ways of not catching the flu virus. Did you know 200,000 people get the flu each year, and 36,000 of those people die from it annually? Here are some ways you can stay healthy and keep away from the flu.

INFLUENZA VACCINATION

The influenza vaccination, otherwise known as the flu vaccine or flu shot, is the first step you should use to keep the mean influenza virus out of your precious respiratory system and body. The influenza vaccine is a vaccine used to protect you from the highly contagious flu. The vaccination comes in either a nasal spray or a shot. Now, not everyone has to get the flu vaccine, mainly people with medical problems like HIV, diabetes, kidney diseases, newborn babies, adults 65 and older, and pregnant women. Just keep in mind that even if you do get the vaccine,

you will still have a chance of getting the flu, but the virus just won't be as strong.

WASH YOUR HANDS

You should always wash your hands, even if you don't have the flu. The flu is spread through little droplets of respiratory fluid. When people cough, sneeze, talk to, or touch others they could be spreading the virus. When you wash your hands, you should lather them up with soap while singing the alphabet or happy birthday song, and then rinse them off. Be sure to always get in between your fingers. You have to keep your hands under hot/warm water for at least 20 seconds, or the germs will not be killed. Some ways to keep your hands clean throughout the day are by:

- *Washing them frequently
- *Sneezing/coughing into your arm, elbow or a tissue instead of your hands
- *Carry Germ-x and using it when you can't get to a sink

HEALTHY LIVING

Eating healthy foods, exercising regularly, and drinking plenty of water are three wonderful ways to prevent the flu. You should be doing these things on a regular basis anyway, so that you can maintain a healthy body all of the time. When you eat healthy foods you are rebooting your immune system so that it can grow strong enough to fight off the infections and viruses you might catch. Another good prevention tip is to drink eight eight-ounce glasses of water every day for a total of 64 ounces. Exercising at least thirty minutes every day will also help with this.

WORDS TO THE WISE

Following the tips above will help you to not contaminate others with the flu. If you are one of the unlucky people who do end up with the flu, you should go and see a doctor. The doctor will then prescribe medications that help to cure your symptoms. Remember to:

1. Get plenty of rest
2. Wash your hands often
3. Eat healthy foods

4. Drink plenty of water

So unless you want to sit in bed with a hot head, crusty nose, and your muscles aching like you just had a five hour workout, follow the tips above for a healthy season.

Annotated

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attempt to
establish a
narrowed
purpose

claim without
further support

In a rain forest there are four layers of life, the forest floor, the understory, the canopy, and the emergent layer. Each layer has its own distinct qualities and unique animals and plants you won't find in other layers of the forest. The rain forest is specifically what it is because of the layers and

organization with use of comparison/contrast of
layers of rain forest and
pieces of portfolio
their irreplaceable habitats combining to make the final

environment. In comparison, each portfolio piece is special in
its own way with its own objectives to be realized. Like the
rain forest layers, each piece is unique in its own way, but only
together will they combine to form the spectacular high
scoring portfolio.

Learning how to prewrite and brainstorm words to
describe my creative ideas was one of the harder challenges
that I had to triumph over. It seemed to take me forever just
to write one paragraph. As I grew more experienced in that
topic, learning from my teacher, it almost became second
nature to me.

Problems
with unity
and
coherence
within the
paragraphs

The thesaurus became my best friend when the time
came to revise and edit my pieces. I could always depend on it
to help me find the perfect replacement for a word that was
not quite right or used too often.

I think that my best entry is "Baby Cindy." This piece is like the forest floor in a rain forest. It is the foundation for all of my other writings because not only was it one of the easier pieces for me to write, but it is also reflective of my basic desire to love and be loved. Love creates a foundation for life to grow into and be based upon.

I relate the understory in a forest to my piece "The Flu Blues." Writing transactive pieces isn't one of my strengths. This is one of my pieces that I consider bulky and dense because I couldn't see the final product until the darkness cleared up. } *unelaborated*

My poetry piece "Inside This" is associated to the canopy. A refreshing breeze will blow you away and rustle your thoughts as you quietly read through it. As the many animals that live in the canopy have a distinct uniqueness, this poem does as well.

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Variety of
sentence
structure

reflection Without the help and encouragement from my mother and teachers, I wouldn't have realized how rewarding writing could be as I dissected my thoughts and feelings. It's not easy understanding who we are, but when we put thoughts and ideas down on paper, clarity can often result in a wonderful revelation.

When taking my writing skills on with me to the future, I plan to keep writing in a distinguished manner. I hope to continue to challenge myself, and in doing so hopefully my weaknesses will develop and strengthen.

awkward
sentence

Punctuation
of introductory
elements

So as I think about the layers of a rain forest, I think

Variety of
sentence
structure

about the layers of my life. I compare these layers to my
portfolio, and realize that the layers can be very complex, but
can also be amazingly simple. As in my portfolio, all of my
pieces can stand on their own like unique habitats but can
mesh together to become an interactive group of writing
showing the environment of the person I am.

attempt
to maintain
compare/
contrast
however it
is unelabor-
ated

Yours truly,

A seventh grade student

effective intro
using dialogue

Baby Cindy

"Mom, Mom," I yelled down the hall, "Where did you put her!"

Just the thought of Baby Cindy missing was mind-boggling.

"Who, what are you talking about?" my mom questioned.

"Baby Cindy, I can't find her anywhere!" I shouted.

"Oh, I put her in the attic with all of your other stuffed animals to keep them company," she chuckled.

focused purpose
"Mom, this is not a joking matter! She's special, and you should know that! She needs to be taken down now!" I screamed.

Baby Cindy was and still is a very special friend of mine. Although she might look like an ordinary doll stuffed full of cotton balls, with yellow yarn hair, and a painted-on face, in my eyes she was the most beautiful doll I had ever seen in my life. I found her in a very odd place.

effective word choice

As I sit here, the memories flood back like a tidal wave.

transitional sentence

intro to flashback

It was the end of a long Thanksgiving weekend that we were spending with our family. That Sunday morning we walked over to

Spatial transition

McDonald's for a quick breakfast before we had to start on our long journey home. As we stepped into the chilly McDonald's lobby, the first thing that went through my mind was... Use of ellipses

"Play palace!" Cody, my older brother and I yelled in unison. We both had the same thought as we made a mad dash outside to the playground. Even though I was only two, boy could my short little legs send me flying. We stopped in awe with our mouths wide open, looking at what was a toddler's dream come true. Without delay, we tore our shoes and socks off and slid through the maze of tunnels and toys.

precise word choice

In a bit, Mom called us to find a place to eat our pancakes soaked in syrup. I waddled over to the nearest picnic table I could find and there, crumpled and forlorn under the corner of the picnic table, was a vision in pink. The last thing I would have thought to be my new best friend.

With pancakes now in the back of my mind, I walked over to the table as if I was being pulled by a magnetic force. Slowly, I bent down, tentatively picking up the pink and green mound of softness, not

word choice

knowing what I was in for. There, smiling sweetly at me was the most angelic face I had ever seen in my short lifetime. The words tumbled from

Varied and complex sentences to enhance meaning

my mouth as the excitement within me grew higher and higher, I was going to blow!

"Mommy, Mommy, look what I found," I said, tugging at my mom's shirt, "I found her over there and...and can I keep her?" I pleaded.

Careful organization

Realistic dialogue

"What, huh? Cody, pancakes go in your MOUTH," Mom ordered.

"Mommy," I whined.

"Where did you get that?" she answered, alarmed.

"Under the table," I responded.

"That's not yours, is it?" Mom questioned.

"No, I just found her under the table," I said.

Then Mom got distracted when Cody spilled milk on the floor. All I could think about was keeping this precious bundle. I wanted her to be mine and I would later call her Baby Cindy.

Transition

Suddenly I came back into reality. Baby Cindy must be rescued from the dark and claustrophobic box in the attic. As I headed up the rickety wooden steps that lead up to the dreary room, another memory of me being with Baby Cindy hit me in the head like a boomerang. I

Varied sentence structure

Chronological flashbacks

remembered taking her under my arm everywhere I went. Except for that one time...

I was packing, getting ready to go over to Grandma and Grandpa's house. I was so caught up in the excitement, the happiness in finally being able to stay over at their house for a whole weekend that I ...

"Shelby, come on we need to leave now," Mom yelled down the hall.

"I'm coming, I'm coming," I answered as I stuffed the last of my toys into my little backpack. Running out the door to the car, I felt like I was forgetting something, *Oh well*, I thought, *I probably don't need it anyway.* Slamming the car door, we drove off.

Use of
italics for
thoughts

We were finally there, at Grandma and Grandpa's house. I hopped out of the car, ran up to the front door, knocked once and let myself in. Searching the house for my grandparents, I ran into my grandma on my way around.

"Go put your things up honey and you can have a cookie," she said, smiling sweetly.

correct use of quotation marks

Skillfully applies
characteristics of genre

"Okay Grandma," I said back, smiling just as sweetly as her. I threw my stuff on my bed and started pulling everything out looking for Baby

Cindy. I couldn't find her anywhere! Where could she be? Didn't I pack her? Why isn't she here! Thoughts were chopping through my mind like a

butcher knife. Panic started to rise in my throat and it erupted out in a scream. I couldn't imagine staying anywhere without my beloved Baby

Cindy. Transition Needless to say, it was a long weekend for me and my

grandparents as Grandma tried to substitute one of her many Cabbage

Patch dolls for the security that could only be found in my Baby Cindy.

Effective use of white space (between time frames)

As I flicked on the light in the attic I found the box in which Baby Cindy was being imprisoned. I grabbed it and started pushing through the box of old tired memories looking for the most important one of all.

They had all been well-loved as was evident by their torn limbs and sticky fur, which jolted me back to one more memory.

I was playing in my backyard, climbing to the top of a ladder when she got caught on a loose nail. I could hear the thin and worn material

internal thoughts

Use of
Similes

being ripped and I knew damage had been done. To the house I quickly ran in search of my mom. As tears ran down my face, I could hardly sputter out the words...

"Mom, can you fix her?"

As always, Mom could fix it. With every hand-sewn stitch that was put into her back, a freshly made tear ran down my cheek. Before I knew it she looked as good as new and we were back to our old adventures.

sentence complexity

Transition to present

Back in the attic, my hand brushed across something as familiar as my parent's voice. Gently tugging it out I was relived to see it was Baby Cindy. Looking no worse for the wear of being tortured in this box, I hugged her fiercely and marched back to my bedroom carefully setting her in the place of honor on my pillow.

misplaced modifier

"Baby Cindy, you're staying with me forever. We will always remember our treasured memories, even as we make new ones."

} effective closure

THE FLU BLUES

Use punctuation
to enhance
meaning

Do you have that runny nose, hoarse cough, sore throat, muscle
aching, feel-so-bad-that-you-just-want-to-die feeling? Well, if you do, you

audience
(sustained
throughout)

have probably come down with the flu. Trying to prevent the flu before it

happens is one of the most effective ways of not catching the flu virus.

Idea dev.
(Statistics)

Did you know 200,000 people get the flu each year, and 36,000 of those

people die from it annually? Here are some ways you can stay healthy

and keep away from the flu.

focused purpose → maintained throughout

logical
organization

INFLUENZA VACCINATION

The influenza vaccination, otherwise known as the flu vaccine or flu
shot, is the first step you should use to keep the mean influenza virus

out of your precious respiratory system and body. The influenza vaccine is

a vaccine used to protect you from the highly contagious flu. The

acceptable word choice

vaccination comes in either a nasal spray or a shot. Now, not everyone

has to get the flu vaccine, mainly people with medical problems like HIV,

diabetes, kidney diseases, newborn babies, adults 65 and older, and

audience

pregnant women. Just keep in mind that even if you do get the vaccine,

Control of
Correctness
→ Use of
comma

Variety in sentence structure

you will still have a chance of getting the flu, but the virus just won't be as strong.

WASH YOUR HANDS

You should always wash your hands, even if you don't have the

flu. The flu is spread through little droplets of respiratory fluid. When

people cough, sneeze, talk to, or touch others they could be spreading

the virus. When you wash your hands, you should lather them up with

soap while singing the alphabet or happy birthday song, and then rinse

them off. Be sure to always get in between your fingers. You have to

keep your hands under hot/warm water for at least 20 seconds, or the

germs will not be killed. Some ways to keep your hands clean throughout

the day are by:

*Washing them frequently

*Sneezing/coughing into your arm, elbow or a tissue instead of your hands

*Carry Germ-x and using it when you can't get to a sink

Variety of sentence structure

elaboration

*Characteristics of genre —
bulleted list
subheading*

HEALTHY LIVING

Parallel
structure

→ Eating healthy foods, exercising regularly, and drinking plenty of

water are three wonderful ways to prevent the flu. You should be doing

these things on a regular basis anyway, so that you can maintain a

healthy body all of the time. When you eat healthy foods you are

Word choice
appropriate
for purpose

rebooting your immune system so that it can grow strong enough to fight

Transition

off the infections and viruses you might catch. Another good prevention tip

is to drink eight eight-ounce glasses of water every day for a total of 64

ounces. Exercising at least thirty minutes every day will also help with

this.

WORDS TO THE WISE

effective
transition

Following the tips above will help you to not contaminate others

correct use of antecedent

Subj-
verb
agreement

with the flu. If you are one of the unlucky people who do end up with

the flu, you should go and see a doctor. The doctor will then prescribe

medications that help to cure your symptoms. Remember to:

correct
colon usage

1. Get plenty of rest
2. Wash your hands often
3. Eat healthy foods

reconnects
to the
purpose

4. Drink plenty of water

So unless you want to sit in bed with a hot head, crusty nose, and your muscles aching like you just had a five hour workout, follow the tips above for a healthy season.

Rationale for Training Portfolio

Title: Baby Cindy

Grade: 7

Year released: 2007

Reflective Piece Title: Dear Reviewer

2 Content (2,2,2)

The writing attempts to establish a general purpose but lacks focus on the literacy connection from the first paragraph on. By saying "This portfolio experience pushed me on and on through the thick, never ending jungles of emotions..." but failing to provide elaborated supports from the literacy connection, this writing demonstrates some lapses in focus and awareness of audience's needs.

3 Structure (3,3,3)

This writing is logically organized because it follows the comparison/contrast pattern. The writing demonstrates logical, effective transitions throughout. Such transitional elements as "In comparison," "Like the rain forest layers," "Way up high..." guides the reader throughout the piece. Also this writing demonstrates control and variety on structure through the effective use of introductory elements.

3 Conventions (3,3,3)

This writing demonstrates control of grammar and usage. Introductory adverb clauses and compound sentences are correctly punctuated. In addition, word choice is acceptable and appropriate for the audience because of such words as "clarity," "objectives," "specifically," etc. The writing demonstrates control of correctness.

Instructional Implications:

The use of the analogy is problematic because it is difficult to establish a literacy connection as it relates to the rain forest. The purpose in this student's letter is to develop this analogy instead of developing the literacy connection. (Kentucky Writing Handbook, p. 80)

Rationale for Training Portfolio

Title: Baby Cindy

Grade: 7

Year released: 2007

Personal OR Literary Piece Title: Baby Cindy

3 Content (3,3,3)

This writing establishes and maintains an authentic focused purpose throughout: "Mom, this is not a joking matter! She's special and you should know that." This writing demonstrates an awareness of the audience's needs by describing important experiences concerning "Baby Cindy" that engages the reader. It adheres to the characteristics of a memoir as evidenced through the careful selection of scenes that establish the significance of the doll to the writer.

4 Structure (4,4,4)

The writing demonstrates careful organization through various techniques such as flashbacks and ellipses. This writing has an effective lead, i.e., dialogue that engages the reader, and demonstrates complex and varied sentence structure that enhances meaning.

4 Conventions (4,4,4)

Although there are slight grammatical errors such as a misplaced modifier, this writing mostly demonstrates rich and precise word choice appropriate for the audience and purpose ("... she might look like an ordinary doll stuffed full of cotton balls, with yellow yarn hair, and a painted on face...", "crumpled and forlorn...", "claustrophobic boy.") Also, this writing demonstrates control of correctness to enhance communication (dialogue, hyphenated words, thoughtshots, etc.)

Instructional Implications:

The writer may need to study writings with examples of insightful, reflective and analytical thinking and ideas.

Rationale for Training Portfolio

Title: Baby Cindy

Grade: 7

Year released: 2007

Transactive Piece Title: The Flu Blues

3 Content (3,3,3)

This writing establishes and maintains an authentic, focused purpose ("Here are some ways you can stay healthy and keep away from the flu.") It indicates an awareness of the audience's needs through the use of sufficient details. ("...the first step you should use...") It conveys an appropriate tone by directly addressing the audience throughout ("Just keep in mind that even if you..."). The writing applies characteristics of an article (headings, bulleted lists).

3 Structure (3,3,3)

The writing demonstrates logical, coherent organization. It begins with a question to focus the reader, includes subheadings to direct the reader towards specific recommendations, and includes bulleted lists. In addition, there is a variety of sentence structure to keep the reader engaged.

3 Conventions (4,3,3)

This writing demonstrates a control of grammar and usage that enhances the meaning (parallel structure; subject-verb agreement "Eating healthy foods, exercising regularly, and drinking plenty of water are three wonderful ways.") Word choice is mostly acceptable and effective; whereas, the use of hyphens ("feel-so-bad-that...") enhances communication. The writer demonstrates a control of correctness but fails to cite the sources of a few statistics and facts stated within the article.

Instructional Implications:

The writer may need more instruction about citing sources and the use of correct documentation.